MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Due to widespread drought conditions prevailing in many States and floods in some States in the Eastern region during the Kharif season, production of foodgrains in 1987-88 is likely to be affected. Firm estimates of Kharif production are not yet due from the States. Sowings of Rub': crops are still in progress. It is, therefore, too early to quantify the anticipated production as well as the likely amount of deficit of foodgrains during the year 1987-88.

(c) In order to make up the loss in production sustained in Kharif season, a vigorous rabi production strategy is being implemented. Appropriate supply plans for inputs like seeds and fertilisers are being tied up with the States.

Aluminium plant in Krishnadevi Peta and Visakhapatnam Steel Projects

795. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the present stage of aluminimum plant in Krishnadevi Peta, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the conclusions after discussions with the USSR in this regard;

(c) what is the present stage of progress of construction of steel plant at Visakhapatnam;

(d) whether the plant is likely to be commissioned as per target date; and

(e whether thje Central Government have decided to enhance the rates of compensation which is likely to be paid to persons whose lands have been acquired for Visakhapatnam project, if so, what are the rates fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) A feasibility report for an export-driented bauxite mine of 2. 3 million tonnes per annum capacity in Andhra Pradesh has been prepared with Soviet assistance. Measures to be taken to make the project economically viable are to be discussed with the Soviets during the next meeting of the Working Group on Non-Ferrous Metallurgy of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission.

(c) The progress of construction of Visakhapatnam Steel Project as ton 31-10-1987 in terms of percentage fulfilment of schedules in different areas, is given below: —

Item	Percentage fulfilment of Project schedule.
Civil Engineering Drawings	1020
Structural Design Drawings	103. 7
Concreting	100. 1
Structural fabrications	97 5
Structural erection.	96. 8
Equipment ordering	102 3
Equipment erection	77. 9
Refractory ordering	94 7
Refractory erection.	89 2

(d) Phase I of the project will be commissioned as scheduled.

(e) The enhanced rates of compensation are given below: —

Dryland... Rs. 17. 000 J- per acre

Wet land.. Rs. 20, 000/- per arre

Village site .. Rs. 6/- per sq. yd.

Setting up of Consumer Protection Councils

796. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to statu:

(a) whether Consumer Protection

Councils have been, set up in different States under the Consumer Protection Act; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by these Councils to protect consumers from exploitation by profiteers and hoarders?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHR-I H. K. L. BHAGAT); (a) and (b) As per the information received so far, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Madhya Pradesh; Maharashtra, Mizoram Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh Delhi, and Pondi-cherry have set up Consumer Protection Councils. The main object of these Councils is to protect and promote the rights of the consumers, such as, the right to safety, right to be informed, right to choose, right to be heard, right to seek redressal, right to consumer education etc. The role of these Councils is advisory in nature. Action against hoarders and profiteers has to be taken by the State Governments under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and other similar legislations and/or through the redressal machinery to be set up at the national, state and district level under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Production of Fertilizers

797. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: SHRI M. S. GURUPADASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a glut of fertilisers in the country;

(b) if so, what is the present position with regard to production in the fertiliser plants in the public sector, unitwise;

(c) whether Government have imposed conditions on MMTC (Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation) to restrict the import; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) There is excess availability of fertilisers in the market due to low consumption caused by prolonged drought conditions in many parts of the country.

(b) A statement is attached. *(See* below).

(c) and (d) MMTC as the canalising agency aranges the import of ferti lisers as per approved import require ments. Based on assessed requirements and the estimated availability, it was not considered necessary to import any nitrogenous and phosphatic ferti lisers during the current year. Imports of these matterials were, therefore, drastically reduced to accommodate only the inescapable trade commit ments. I